

**REMARKS**

This responds to the Office Action mailed on May 2, 2006, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 5, 9 and 17 are amended, claim 23 is canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-22 are now pending in this application.

**§112 Rejection of the Claims**

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. Claim 23 has been canceled.

**§102 Rejection of the Claims**

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Lee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,663,950).

The Examiner stated that Lee et al. discloses a method of connecting nodes to a first and second concentrator to form a dual ring network including inner and outer rings. Lee et al. also discloses configuring the first concentrator and second concentrator to connect the B interface of a node to the A interface of a neighbor node, connect the B interface of the last node to the A interface of the first node, and connect a pair of optical fibers between the concentrators if the number of nodes is odd.

Claim 9 has been amended to more clearly differentiate over Lee. In particular, Applicant has taken limitations from allowed claim 1 to more clearly define Applicant's invention.

**§103 Rejection of the Claims**

Claims 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over (U.S. Patent No. 5,663,950) in view of Enhanced Intelligent Protection Switching (E-IPS), Cisco Systems White Paper, (2000), p. 1-13.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10-12 are dependent on newly amended claim 9. Neither Lee nor E-IPS, alone or in combination, disclose the method described by Applicant and claimed in claims 9-12. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8 and 13-22 were allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6909 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date August 2, 2006 By Thomas F. Brennan  
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 2nd day of August 2006.

JONATHAN FERGESSON  
Name

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Signature